

cataloguing the Bombay collection, we have found another specimen (No. 13880), obtained by T. R. Bell at Karwar, N. Kanara (no date), which takes the limit further south. This was listed as *P. pusilla* and appears to have been overlooked in earlier literature.

The key in the INDIAN HANDBOOK (2:159) reads:—

Breast immaculate; wing under 110 mm.

Outer edge of primary brown; wing over 94 mm. *P. parva*.

Outer edge of primary white; wing under 93 mm. *P. pusilla*.

The white edge to the wing is more pronounced in *pusilla* but in both the present specimen and another female *parva* from Mesopotamia, the outer edge is white and, in the absence of a specimen of *pusilla* for comparison, may well be placed in that group.

In the material available (7 *parva*, 20 *pusilla*), the wing measurements of the males are perhaps exclusive (2 *parva* 101, 104 cf. 13 *pusilla* 88-96 av. 90.25) but the difference between female *parva* (97, 97, 99, 100) and the larger juvenile males of *pusilla* (88-95 av. 89) is marginal, and very likely to overlap in a larger series. The underparts of ♀ *parva*, however, are uniformly buff-coloured while most *pusilla* are whitish with varying amounts of brown (and grey) on the sides of the breast. A constant difference appears to be the colour of the head—uniformly brown in both sexes in *parva*, and marked with black in *pusilla*. Mr. D. Goodwin of the British Museum (N.H.), who has very kindly confirmed our identification, agrees that this is a good character for differentiating between the species.

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## 5. THE NAME OF THE JUNGLE BABBLER *TURDOIDES STRIATUS* (AVES) FROM ORISSA

While working on the ranges of the babblers for a forthcoming volume of the HANDBOOK, Dr. Sálím Ali pointed out to me that he had collected the Jungle Babbler in Orissa which looked very different from nominate *striatus* but that his specimens had never been critically examined. In their work on the Jungle Babbler (called by them, *Turdoides somervillei* and races), Whistler & Kinnear (1936, J.

*Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 35:737-739) had assigned this range to *terricolor*. In the SYNOPSIS (1961, p. 377, form No. 1265), I assigned the range of *Turdoides striatus striatus* (Dumont) [*terricolor* is a synonym], to Orissa, not having seen specimens, and following Whistler, Kinnear and subsequent authors. Dr. Sálím Ali kindly sent his four specimens to Washington, where in series, their rufescent colour and unstreaked underparts make them stand out immediately from any other known population. Fortunately, Jerdon (1847, ILLUSTRATIONS TO INDIAN ORNITHOLOGY, text to Pl. XIX) had noticed that a specimen from Goomsoor was more rufescent than others and wrote that should it prove to be distinct, he would propose the name *orissae*. It is evident, therefore, that the birds in question should be called *Turdoides striatus orissae* (Jerdon). In view of the foregoing, it seems relevant at this time to append a more up-to-date and complete description of this subspecies to supplement Jerdon's adequate but rather scanty diagnosis.

***Turdoides striatus orissae*:** More rufescent throughout than any other subspecies of *T. striatus*. Resembles most *somervillei* of coastal Maharashtra and Gujarat, particularly those specimens from the latter region grading towards *sindianus*; which, however, are distinguished by their buff rump, paler than the back. This population is separated from the range of *somervillei* by the grey *orientalis* of the Deccan plateau which is darker and has the breast heavily streaked. From *malabaricus* of Kerala, and the south-west of Mysore it differs by being more rufescent above, by having the throat much paler, and by lacking the heavy streaking on the breast. *T. s. striatus* and *sindianus* are much greyer and paler. It is worthwhile noting that these birds from coastal Orissa resemble most the two rufescent brown-tailed subspecies *malabaricus* and *somervillei* from the west coast of the Peninsula. A key to these subspecies will appear in Volume 6 of the HANDBOOK.

*Holotype*: ♂ ad. No. 15956, Bombay Natural History Society, collected by Sálím Ali on 10 December 1949 at Barkot, Sambalpur district, Orissa.

*Measurements*: Wing 103, tail 102, bill (from skull) 25; tarsus 35 mm.

*Range*: Orissa east of the Ghats, and perhaps north-eastern Andhra Pradesh south to the Godavari River delta.

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